

Section 9F. Public Safety and Emergency Management

Introduction

The ability of government to provide a safe environment to work and live contributes to residents' quality of life. A community that promotes safety retains desirable neighborhoods, attracts quality businesses and provides a positive social environment. The City can encourage public safety through a variety of measures including the provision of quality law enforcement and fire protection services, proactive programs in crime prevention and fire prevention and having an effective and comprehensive emergency management plan.

This section of the *Comprehensive Plan*:

- Describes **existing services** and programs.
- Provides an **analysis of future needs**.
- Establishes **goals, policies and recommended actions**.

Existing Services

Police

Law enforcement services within the City are provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. The City, along with the cities of Arden Hills, Gem Lake, Little Canada, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Township, has a three-year agreement with Ramsey County for the provision of police services. This three-year agreement expires at the end of 2009 and is expected to be renewed for another three-year period. All other government units that contract with the Sheriff's Department are also expected to renew their contractual agreements.

The Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services within the City including patrol and police protection, investigation, traffic enforcement, and crime prevention (including neighborhood watch). Volunteers, through groups such as Volunteers Involved in Public Safety (VIPS), Community Affairs Officers (CAO's), and Reserves, assist the Sheriff's Department in areas such as neighborhood and park watch, crime prevention and special events.

In addition, the Sheriff's Department provides patrol and police protection of the County parks and open space areas in Shoreview through its Lake and Trails division. To ensure safety on Shoreview's lakes, the City contracts for additional lake patrol hours during peak use periods (weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day). Citizen reserve unit and volunteers assist with monitoring lake and trail users through the County Lakes and Trails Watch program.

The Sheriff's Department is organized and supervised by an elected Ramsey County Sheriff. The Sheriff appoints an Undersheriff who is responsible for the Patrol, Investigation and Lakes and Trails Divisions. These divisions are located in Arden Hills at 1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive at the intersection of Highway 96 and Hamline Avenue, just west of the City's border.

Beginning in 2007, radio communications and dispatch services for police and fire calls are now handled by Ramsey County under a Joint Powers Agreement with nearly all the Cities in Ramsey County. The County operates this program in a newly constructed joint dispatch center located in St. Paul.

Medical

Allina Medical Transportation provides emergency medical service under a license from the State of Minnesota. The license covers most communities in northern Ramsey County. The central base station for Allina in the north service area is located on Dunlap Street just south of I-694 and west of Lexington Avenue in Arden Hills. Allina utilizes the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support System when responding to medical emergencies. The primary focus on CALS is to provide medical teams with the appropriate training so they can anticipate, recognize and treat life-threatening emergencies.

Members of the Lake Johanna Fire Department are also trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and respond to cardiac arrest calls and personal injury accidents. Ramsey County Sheriff's deputies are also trained as first responders and assist in medical emergencies. All of the Sheriff's front line squads are equipped with defibrillators.

Fire

The City contracts with the Lake Johanna Fire Department (LJFD) for fire protection services. The Department also serves the cities of Arden Hills and North Oaks. The paid on call department has approximately 70 members and responds from four full-service fire stations. The City of Shoreview owns two of the stations. One station is located in southern Shoreview at 3615 Victoria Street (Station No. 4) and the second station, which serves as the headquarters, is located in northern Shoreview at 1150 West County Road I (Station No. 3). A station located at 4676 Hodgson Road in North Oaks (Station No. 2) also serves the City. These station locations are identified on the Outdoor Warning Sirens Map (**Map 9F-1**).

The Lake Johanna Fire Department provides a full range of services including fire suppression and investigation, medical response to cardiac arrest and accident with injury calls, and public fire education and prevention. The City entered into a 5-year service agreement with the Department in 1999. The agreement includes three 5-year extensions making it a 20-year agreement. The Department's organization structure include a 7-member Board of Directors, with two appointed representatives from Shoreview, one appointed representative from both Arden Hills and North Oaks, and three elected representatives from the Fire Department. The Board appoints a full-time Fire Chief who has responsibility for the overall management of the Department. The Chief appoints a Deputy Chief and other station officers for the Department.

To improve weekday response time, the Department operates with a Duty Crew consisting of 3-4 firefighters on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Department is part of the Capital City Mutual Aid Association and also has an automatic mutual aid agreement with the Roseville Fire Department that provides automatic call out for structure fires in either of the two cities. The Department continues to have a joint hazardous materials response team with the cities of New Brighton, Vadnais Heights, and Falcon Heights. This team is specially trained to deal with hazardous materials.

Animal Control

The City of Shoreview contracts with Animal Control Services, Inc. for animal control services. The City has adopted an Animal Control Ordinance that establishes licensing requirements and regulations for domestic and wild animals. These regulations address the pet owner's responsibilities for caring of the animals so they are not a nuisance or threat to the general public.

Emergency Management Plan

Natural disasters and disasters caused by man pose a threat to the health and safety of the community's residents. These disasters include tornadoes, floods, blizzards, as well as major disasters such as train wrecks, plane crashes, communicable disease outbreaks, explosions, hazardous materials release, pipeline leaks, and terrorism. An emergency management plan encompasses the actions necessary to mitigate, prepare for, effectively respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

Ramsey County is the smallest and most densely populated county in Minnesota. In order to more effectively manage disaster preparation, mitigation, response and recovery, Shoreview, along with other suburban communities, adopted Ramsey County's Emergency Plan as its own plan in 2005. This has enabled a higher level of coordination and mutual support among suburban emergency managers and first responders. In addition, it has reduced the time required by each city for state and federal reports. It has also served federal requirements for collective agreements (Ramsey County, Dakota County and the City of St. Paul) to be eligible for certain emergency management grants.

The Emergency Management Plan's mission is to:

- Minimize impact to property and the environment;
- Secure our critical infrastructure and facilities;
- Resume the regular provision of services to our citizens; and
- Maintain essential facilities and utilities.

The basic purpose of the plan is to provide a guide for emergency governmental operations. The County's Emergency Operations Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed. The City maintains guidelines, references and contact lists for city leadership and emergency managers

from other cities and other levels of government who may be called on to help during a disaster or emergency.

Warning and notification of natural and man-made disasters are disseminated to the general public through the City's outdoor warning sirens (Map 9F.1). Ten warning sirens are located throughout the City and are sounded when there is immediate danger from:

- Severe weather
- National security threat
- Environmental hazard or threat

Map 9F-2 identifies the location of "302 Facilities" in the City. A "302 Facility" is any facility that has reported an amount equal to or greater than the Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) of any "Extremely Hazardous Substance" covered by Federal Law. This map also shows the buffer areas around these facilities and facilities that are at risk.

Map 9F-3 provides information regarding shelter locations and emergency resources.

Analysis of Future Needs

Public Safety

The majority of crimes within the City consist of thefts and vandalism. The rate of these crimes has fluctuated some from year to year. Serious crimes, including both violent and property crimes, are present but represent a small portion of crime within the community.

The *2005 Residential Quality of Life Survey* asked residents about a variety of public safety issues. In general, residents were very satisfied with both police and fire protection services with 96 percent of residents surveyed rating police protection as either good or excellent and 94 percent rating fire protection as either good or excellent. Residents rated two issues being the as the greatest public safety concerns facing the community: traffic speeding (45 percent) and residential crimes such as burglary and theft (30 percent). Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed indicated that the amount of patrolling by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department in their neighborhoods was "about right". Regarding traffic speeding, forty-nine percent of the respondents felt that traffic speeding is a serious problem in their neighborhoods while forty-one percent stated that they would support tax increases to fund an expansion of police patrolling and speed control in city neighborhoods. The contract cities have two deputies dedicated to traffic and speed enforcement.

The City recognizes that crime within the community affects residents' quality of life and has broader impacts on economic development, neighborhood preservation and housing maintenance. Although the crime rate within the community is low, public safety efforts still need to be employed to reduce crime. Two areas which are of concern relate to identity theft and theft from vehicles. These efforts will continue to focus on crime prevention with enforcement

and education being key components. The level of service being provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department meets the community's needs and is cost-effective. Because of this, the City anticipates continuing law enforcement services with Ramsey County.

Emergency Services

Fire

The number of fire calls in Shoreview has ranged from 254 to 302 between the 2003 and 2007. Within this same time period, the estimated valuation of fire losses has fluctuated from a high of \$574,750 in 2007 to a low of \$266,975 in 2004. The type of calls received vary but alarm system malfunctions and unintentional calls account for a majority of calls received. Other calls include structure fires, vehicle fires, natural gas leaks, gasoline spills and vehicle accidents.

Although the total number of fire calls has remained relatively stable over the past several years, there is a trend towards a higher number of responses because the Department is now responding to all accident with injury calls as well as cardiac arrest calls.

Medical

Allina responded to more than 1100 medical calls in both 2006 and 2007. More than 900 of these calls were considered Primary 1 calls. Most of the medical emergencies fell into the following categories: chest pain/heart problems, general medical, respiratory problems and trauma. During the past two years, Allina has responded to more than 90% of all priority one calls within 10 minutes.

Goals, Policies, and Recommended Actions

Goals

1. Sustain the quality of life within the City by providing an environment that promotes a sense of security and safety.
2. Enhance the overall safety in the City through encouragement of high quality development/redevelopment efforts.
3. Increase public consciousness of public safety issues.

Policies

- A. Encourage public safety through participation in on-going education, crime prevention and fire prevention programs.

- B. Promote volunteerism and encourage residents to be involved in solving any crime/violence problems within the community.

Recommended Actions

1. Continue to work with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department on public safety issues, including:
 - Annually reviewing crime reports.
 - Periodically evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts.
 - Continue proactive use of speed control boards and assignment of traffic deputies to address traffic issues on City streets.
 - Actively promote Ramsey County crime prevention programs, such as neighborhood watch.
 - Participation in the Annual National Night Out Activities.
2. Continue to work with the Lake Johanna Fire Department, including:
 - Participation on the Board of Directors to establish service levels and budget.
 - Evaluation of future staffing alternatives to maintain effective and efficient fire protection service.
 - Continue to emphasize and promote fire protection.
3. Continue and enhance education and community public safety programs, including:
 - Encouraging participation in the Neighborhood Watch program offered through the Crime Prevention Division of the Sheriff's Department.
 - Supporting and encouraging participation in groups such as Volunteers Involved in Public Safety and Lakes and Trails Watch Groups.
 - Initiating and participating in programs that focus on enhancing the development of youth and other citizens.
 - Educating citizens through crime prevention techniques and addressing crime issues or trends such as identity theft and theft from vehicles.
4. Work to address public safety concerns during development and public infrastructure projects by:
 - Periodically evaluating the Development Code and safety codes and considering updates or changes as needed.
 - Assessing public safety impacts of significant development proposals and all public infrastructure projects.
 - Encouraging crime prevention through environmental design, where feasible.